

# Further notes on the genus *Lamecosoma* Ragge, with a description of a new species

(Orth. Tettigoniidae)

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Since the description of *Lamecosoma tenuis* Ragge, 1960 was published, I have found the male of a second species amongst some material kindly lent to me by Mr. R. H. Carcasson of the Coryndon Museum, Nairobi. Two females from the Chyulu Hills, which I mentioned when describing the genus (Ragge, 1960, p. 332), quite probably belong to this new species, but the degree of sexual dimorphism in this group of *Phaneropterinae* makes a definite decision about this impossible.

A further female specimen, kindly lent to me by Dr. M. Beier of the Naturhistorisches Museum, Vienna, may well belong to *L. tenuis* Ragge, originally described from males only. It comes from an unknown locality in Tanganyika and agrees well with the female specimen from Morogoro mentioned in my previous paper (loc. cit.). The present paper includes a description of these two females, a description of the male and possible females of the new species, and a key for separating this species from *L. tenuis* Ragge.

Key to the species of *Lamecosoma* Ragge, based on males only.

1. Subgenital plate conspicuously long, shaped as in fig. 1. Cerci flattened in the distal half, shaped as in fig. 3. Hind femora armed with internal and external ventral spinules ..... *L. tenuis* Ragge.
- Subgenital plate not conspicuously long, shaped as in fig. 2. Cerci not flattened in the distal half, shaped as in fig. 4. Hind femora unarmed ..... *L. inermis* sp. nov.

***Lamecosoma tenuis* Ragge, 1960.**

*Lamecosoma tenuis* Ragge, 1960, *Bull. Brit. Mus. (nat. Hist.) Ent.* 8 (7):

332. Holotype ♂, NORTHERN RHODESIA: Kipundu, 21.I.1938 (Bredo).

In the Musée Royal du Congo, Tervuren.

The two female specimens mentioned above may be described as follows.

♀. Fastigium of vertex sloping to frons, sulcate above.

Pronotum without lateral carinae, or showing tendency towards their formation. Fore femora with about 11 external spinules. Mid femora with about 9-11 external spinules. Fore and mid femora with dorsal ridge at apex, ending in spine or point. Hind femora with about 11-15 external spinules; terminal dorsal spine present or almost absent. Hind tibiae with about 32 external dorsal spines. Fore wings covered almost entirely with dense archedictyon;  $R_s$  and MA unbranched.

Ovipositor as in fig. 5, margins crenulate in distal half.

General coloration green, with reddish markings behind eyes, on sides of pronotal disc and on dorsal part of abdominal tergites, and with reddish spots on basal part of antennae, parts of legs, and sides of abdomen.

*Measurements* (in mm.).

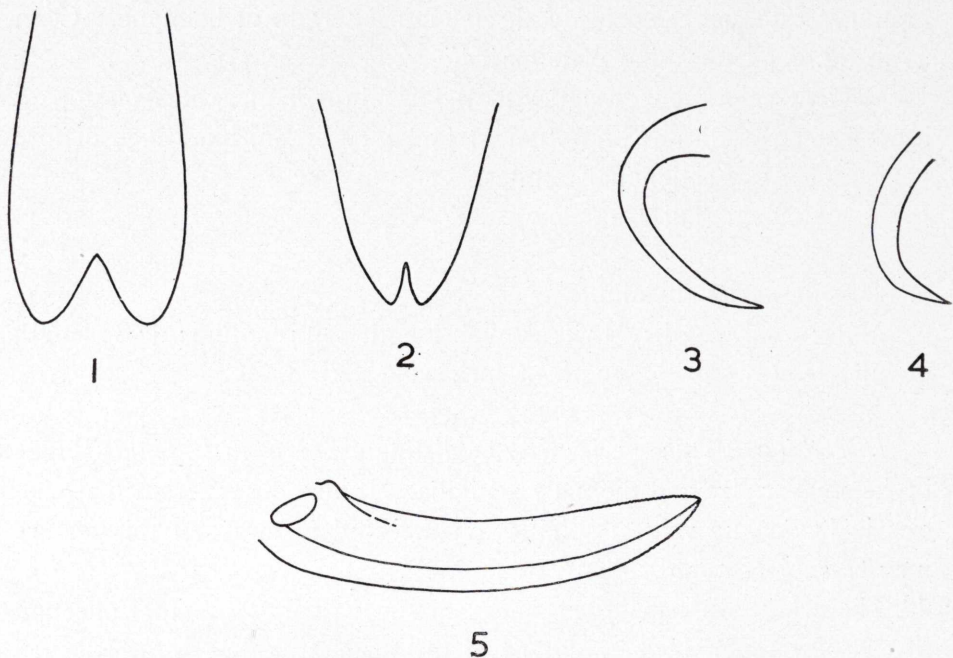
Total length (1): 46·5; median length of pronotum (1): 5·9; length of hind femur (1): 28·2; length of fore wing (1): 36·6; length of ovipositor (2): 12·4-14·2, mean 13·30.

*Discussion.* These two females present all the features that would be expected of females of *L. tenuis* Ragge. They have the extremely attenuate body of this species, and the characters of the head, pronotum, legs, and wings, all agree closely with the male. The general body-size is a little larger than that of the male, but the legs are shorter and more robust: these sexual differences are usual in the *Acrometopae*. It is not, however, absolutely certain that these specimens are *L. tenuis* Ragge, and the two sexes will not be definitely associated until a series containing both has been collected from a single locality.



*Material examined.*

Tanganyika: — (1 ♀) (Naturhistorisches Museum, Vienna); Morogoro, 6.xii.1924 (1 ♀) (British Museum (Natural History), London).



Figs. 1-5.—*Lamecosoma* Ragge: 1 and 2, Ventral view of the male subgenital plate of (1) *L. tenuis* Ragge and (2) *L. inermis* sp. nov.; 3 and 4, Dorsal view of the left male cercus of (3) *L. tenuis* Ragge and (4) *L. inermis* sp. nov.; 5, Lateral view of the ovipositor of *L. tenuis* Ragge.

***Lamecosoma inermis* sp. nov.**

Holotype ♂, Kenya: Nairobi, Karura Forest, vi.1951 (Pinhey). In the British Museum (Natural History), London.

*Diagnosis.* ♂. Subgenital plate as in fig. 2. Cerci as in fig. 4. Tenth abdominal tergite with median triangular emargination. Hind femora unarmed.

♀ unknown (but see below).

*Description.* ♂. Fastigium of vertex sloping to frons, sulcate above.

Pronotum without lateral carinae. Fore femora with no external

spinules. Mid femora with about 2-4 very small external spinules. Fore and mid femora with dorsal ridge at apex, ending in slight point. Hind femora unarmed; terminal dorsal spine absent. Hind tibiae with about 23 external dorsal spines. Fore wings covered almost entirely with dense archdictyon;  $R_s$  and MA unbranched.

Tenth abdominal tergite with median triangular emargination. Supra-anal plate concealed by tenth abdominal tergite in holotype. Cerci as in fig. 4. Subgenital plate as in fig. 2.

General coloration green, with reddish brown markings on top of head, antennae, disc of pronotum, stridulatory organ, hind edge of fore wings, legs, and abdominal tergites.

♀ unknown (but see below).

*Measurements* (in mm.).

Male; total length: 31·2; median length of pronotum: 4·8; length of hind femur: 25·8; length of fore wing: 26·8.

*Discussion.* This species may be distinguished from *L. tenuis* Ragge by its smaller size and the male genitalia. It also differs from that species in having no ventral spinules on the hind femora, but this feature may be subject to individual variation.

There are two female specimens in the British Museum Collection that closely resemble the holotype of this species. They were collected from the Chyulu Hills, Kenya, in April, 1938, one at 5,200 ft. and the other at 5,400 ft. These specimens differ from the holotype in their slightly larger general size and longer fore wings, and in their shorter and more robust legs; these are, however, exactly the intersexual differences that would be expected in this group of *Phaneropterinae*. The ovipositor is very similar to fig. 5. If the locality data had been identical with that of the male, I should have had no hesitation in identifying these females with the present species; however, the degree of sexual dimorphism in the *Acrometopae* is such that I cannot do so with certainty. The measurements of these two specimens are given below.

Total length (2): 37·2-38·2, mean 37·70; median length of pronotum (2): 4·6-4·8, mean 4·70; length of hind femur (1): 22·6; length of fore wing (2): 30·6-32·4 mean 31·50; length of ovipositor (2): 11·8-11·9 mean 11·85.



*Distribution.* Although known for certain only from the type locality, it is likely that this species is quite widespread in the Kenya Highlands.

#### Reference.

RAGGE, D. R.

1960. The *Acrometopae* of the Ethiopian Region: a revision, with notes on the sexual dimorphism shown by the group. *Bull. Brit. Mus. (nat. Hist.) Ent.*, 8 (7): 269-333.

